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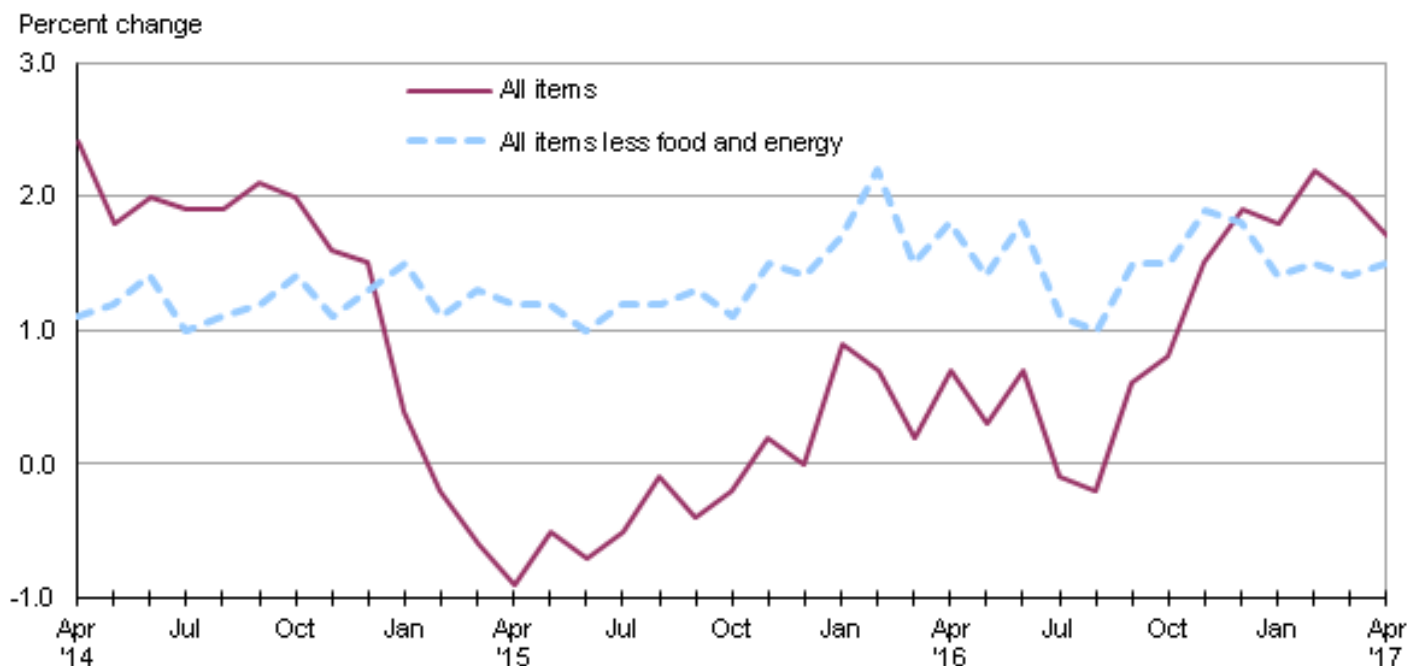
Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha — April 2017

Local prices up 1.7 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Gary-Kenosha area increased 0.4 percent in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that energy prices rose 2.7 percent and food prices decreased 0.5 percent in April. The all items less food and energy index increased 0.3 percent over the month. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy category, prices were higher for apparel and shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the Chicago area all items CPI-U increased 1.7 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Energy costs rose 10.2 percent over the year, primarily due to increases in the indexes for gasoline and utility (piped) gas service. The all items less food and energy index was 1.5 percent higher over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Chicago, April 2014–April 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices fell 0.5 percent in April after increasing 0.3 percent in March. Over the month, the food at home index (groceries) fell 1.1 percent while the food away from home index (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) rose 0.5 percent. Within the food at home group, indexes were lower in April for other bakery products and canned fruits and vegetables. In contrast, the indexes other pork including roasts and picnics and uncooked ground beef were higher.

From April 2016 to April 2017, the food index declined 0.9 percent. Grocery prices fell 2.8 percent, while food away from home prices rose 2.0 percent over the year.

Energy

The energy index increased 2.7 percent in April, primarily due to gasoline prices rising 7.8 percent. In comparison, the electricity index fell 2.1 percent over the month, while utility (piped) gas service costs decreased 0.7 percent.

Over the year, the Chicago area energy index rose 10.2 percent. The major contributing factors in the energy index's rise were a 14.7-percent increase in gasoline prices and a 21.4-percent increase in utility (piped) gas service costs. The electricity index declined 1.6 percent over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.3 percent in April. Among the index's components, prices were higher for apparel (3.9 percent) and shelter (0.3 percent), but lower for education and communication (-0.6 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.5 percent. Increases in the indexes for shelter (2.2 percent) and medical care (3.8 percent) were major contributing factors.

Table A. Chicago CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.2	1.2	0.9	1.2	-0.2	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.8
February.....	1.1	2.3	0.5	0.7	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	0.7	0.1	2.2
March.....	-0.1	0.9	1.1	1.9	0.7	-0.6	0.1	0.2	-0.1	2.0
April.....	0.0	0.9	0.5	2.4	0.1	-0.9	0.6	0.7	0.4	1.7
May.....	0.5	1.5	-0.1	1.8	0.3	-0.5	0.0	0.3		
June.....	0.1	1.7	0.4	2.0	0.2	-0.7	0.5	0.7		
July.....	-0.2	1.7	-0.4	1.9	-0.1	-0.5	-0.8	-0.1		
August.....	0.1	1.1	0.1	1.9	0.4	-0.1	0.2	-0.2		
September.....	-0.2	0.7	0.0	2.1	-0.3	-0.4	0.6	0.6		
October.....	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	2.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.8		
November.....	-0.3	0.6	-0.8	1.6	-0.4	0.2	0.2	1.5		
December.....	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	1.5	-0.6	0.0	-0.2	1.9		

The May 2017 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 14, 2017.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **Note: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, Ill.-Ind.-Wis.** consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Lake and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017	Apr. 2017	Apr. 2016	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017
Expenditure category						
All items	232.491	232.225	233.066	1.7	0.2	0.4
All items (1967=100)	694.586	693.792	696.303	-	-	-
Food and beverages	242.266	242.987	242.079	-0.8	-0.1	-0.4
Food	242.088	242.842	241.723	-0.9	-0.2	-0.5
Food at home	232.648	233.725	231.135	-2.8	-0.7	-1.1
Food away from home	250.726	250.953	252.175	2.0	0.6	0.5
Alcoholic beverages	243.173	243.410	245.612	0.4	1.0	0.9
Housing	240.382	239.698	240.022	2.3	-0.1	0.1
Shelter	301.142	299.877	300.859	2.2	-0.1	0.3
Rent of primary residence(1)	318.021	318.071	319.569	2.7	0.5	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)	304.978	305.444	306.145	2.4	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	304.978	305.444	306.145	2.4	0.4	0.2
Fuels and utilities	203.417	203.895	201.534	5.6	-0.9	-1.2
Household energy	161.380	161.621	159.146	6.3	-1.4	-1.5
Energy services(1)	164.534	164.878	162.311	6.4	-1.4	-1.6
Electricity(1)	154.027	156.635	153.313	-1.6	-0.5	-2.1
Utility (piped) gas service(1)	167.158	163.828	162.697	21.4	-2.7	-0.7
Household furnishings and operations	92.163	92.416	92.478	-0.6	0.3	0.1
Apparel	86.958	83.546	86.812	-1.6	-0.2	3.9
Transportation	180.859	182.158	186.064	3.5	2.9	2.1
Private transportation	177.223	178.455	182.061	3.7	2.7	2.0
Motor fuel	211.378	215.119	231.854	14.7	9.7	7.8
Gasoline (all types)	209.239	212.950	229.645	14.7	9.8	7.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3)	200.295	203.631	220.437	14.8	10.1	8.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	236.133	242.219	258.367	14.9	9.4	6.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3)	236.313	240.732	253.755	13.1	7.4	5.4
Medical care	492.667	491.401	490.939	3.8	-0.4	-0.1
Recreation(5)	111.345	113.501	113.185	1.5	1.7	-0.3
Education and communication(5)	145.495	143.432	142.626	-0.1	-2.0	-0.6
Other goods and services	384.379	384.439	385.179	0.5	0.2	0.2
Commodity and service group						
All items	232.491	232.225	233.066	1.7	0.2	0.4
Commodities	164.788	164.527	165.906	-0.1	0.7	0.8
Commodities less food & beverages	125.614	124.971	127.201	0.5	1.3	1.8
Nondurables less food & beverages	165.539	164.413	169.453	2.9	2.4	3.1
Durables	88.288	88.036	88.096	-2.7	-0.2	0.1
Services	296.790	296.523	296.818	2.7	0.0	0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	221.324	221.102	222.001	1.5	0.3	0.4
All items less shelter	209.346	209.426	210.220	1.5	0.4	0.4
Commodities less food	129.859	129.232	131.484	0.5	1.3	1.7
Nondurables	204.382	204.141	206.348	0.7	1.0	1.1
Nondurables less food	170.693	169.638	174.545	2.7	2.3	2.9
Services less rent of shelter(2)	307.536	308.418	307.962	3.3	0.1	-0.1
Services less medical care services	281.815	281.660	282.006	2.5	0.1	0.1
Energy	180.462	182.057	187.023	10.2	3.6	2.7
All items less energy	239.321	238.881	239.347	1.1	0.0	0.2
All items less food and energy	239.664	239.004	239.760	1.5	0.0	0.3

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.